OCIL 20845

RIDERS OF THE PLAINS

Photoplay in two reels

#8. A Prisoner of War

Story by Karl Coolidge and Jacques Jaccard

Directed by Jacques Jaccard

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Arrow Film Corporation of U.S.

Chapter 8

"A PRISONER OF WAR"

When Dan Morgan, in the midst of his gruesome struggle with

Johnnie Frey over the treaty, loses his sense of honor, forgets his
but
own spoken code for the conflict - "anything by the boots" - and resorts to them as a weapon of combat, Johnnie struggles desperately to
counteract the sudden, unexpected trickery of his foe. But too late!

Morgan finds Johnnie's neck with the heel of his boot. With brutal
strength he kicks - and Johnnie is sent bleeding and bruised to the
ground, where he lies dazed. In a vicious temper, snarling under the
punishment Johnnie has meted out to him, Morgan is quick to follow up
his unfair advantage. In a trice he has leaped upon his fallen adversary. Johnnie, dazed and helpless is pummeled into semi-consciousness. Morgan has won! The stolen peace treaty, upon delivery.

Indians the safety of the Western Frontier depends, remains in
the possession of its purloiner!

tensely, her heart torn with anxiety for Johnnie, rushes to him and sinks beside him in a panic. Though fully sensing that his defeat means the loss of the treaty - an Indian attack upon the frontier at a time when Civil War rages between the Whites in the east, her anguish at this moment is for the man she loves. But as Morgan recovers his breath and poise, Johnnie revives and assures Star Light that Morgan forgot himself in the heat of combat - that he will fulfill his pledge and conduct her safely back to her own race - the palefases - in St. Joe, Missouri, where she will be sheltered in the event Sitting Bull and his warriors take the war-path against the frontier settlements.

Johnnie is made a prisoner of war, as agreed in case of his defeat at Morgan's hands. He is placed under a guard.

At dawn, Morgan, accompanied by half his raiders, rides forth with the stolen treaty and Star Light, headed for St. Joe, where Jacques Cartier anxiously awaits him. Reaching his destination, Morgan, who had sent a messenger the day before with word to Cartier with the treaty has been obtained, lays the document before Cartier.

Cartier upraids Morgan for keeping him on the que vive for one day. It is only when Morgan explains that he did not trust any carrier but himself with the vital document, that he was trailed down by Johnnie Frey and forced to fight it out with his rival for the treaty, and that under the bargain struck before the fight he has brought the supposed Indian Maiden, Star Light, back to St. Joe revealed as a white girl, that Cartier is calmed. And Simone thanks Morgan for his services to her - her father - and the Southland.

Though strangely startled at Morgan's disclosure concerning Star Cartier casts all though?

the firstrom mis mind at this moment. For me is riveted upon the treaty - feverishly elated at obtaining the document by which he hopes to attain his ends. With its delivery to the Indians thwarted - Red War impending -the frontier thus laid upon to attack and seizure by a sinister power, while Civil War tears at the American States in the East -the day seems at hand when his fanatical dream of regaining for his notive land the lost domain of the Louisiana Purchase will be realized.

Meantime, Johnnie has been watching throughout the long night for a chance of escape -desperately intent on dashing to St. Joe and recovering the stolen treaty before it is too late. His chance comes when his guard, fatigued by his tedious vigil, yields to slumber. Taking a long chance, Johnnie succeeds in reaching down a lariat rope from a nearby tree. With the knot of the rope, which he draws through the trigger guard of the sleeping man's rifle, he discharges the gun, rousing the guard into confusion as he dashes away, leaps to his horse and spurs

furiously over the plains. But the camp has been aroused and Morgan's remaining men are quick to dash in pursuit.

A thrilling, spectacular race ensues - across the rugged plainsthrough dangerous canyons -over perilous trails. With the treaty at
stake- Star Light- the very lives of the frontier citizens- in the balance
Johnnie desperately spurs on- faster and ever faster. He gains a lead.

From the summit of a hill he tears down a steep mountainside- across a
canyon bottom, thru a treacherous stream - then on up the opposite
rise to the bluff above the river.

But it is here that fate overtakes him. For he becomes a silhouetted target against the skyline - and the leader of his pursuers, with deadly aim, fires. Johnnie sways in his saddle, then plunges from the bluff to the river's edge below, apparently dead.

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